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Devotees of superpreparedness make the mistake of comparing the second method of insuring a house against fire with the first method of insuring a nation against war. They treat as exactly alike two totally different things. They misapply the rule of three of their school books. It is as if they contended that plaster of Paris is good because apple pie is.

Moreover, they misuse the word "insurance." Insurance, as I am informed, is intended not to prevent loss, but to distribute it among a great many payers of premiums, so that the loss to those whose houses are burned is minimized. Therefore, when they say, you insure your house, why not your country, they set alongside of each other, as if analogous, a method of distributing loss from fire and an alleged method of preventing loss from war.

Although superpreparedness propagandists have been guilty of the invention of bad analogy, they have done good service, for their analogy can easily be straightened out and made illustrative. It is worth while to compare the two methods of real insurance outlined above.

Of course, no group of capitalists is strong enough to insure a nation against financial loss from war; but if such insurers existed, it is safe to assume that they would be guided in some small degree at least by rules which conservative fire insurance companies follow. The latter shrewdly strive for the prevention of losses, and it seems fair to imagine that war insurers would do the same. Would an International Board of War Underwriters contribute heavily to the navy leagues of all of its clients? Has anybody heard of the fire underwriters advertising the slogan, "Keep plenty of gasoline in the home"?

Of course, the purpose of high preparedness, as announced by all of its advocates except a few Bernhardt's, is to prevent wrongful aggression from without. War insurers would realize, however, that as preparedness advances, the danger of wrongful aggression from without becomes smaller than the danger of spontaneous combustion from within. Witness the case of Germany before the war. For the insured householder to keep in his house a revolver and a dozen shells in order to drive away persons who may attempt to burn the house down may be good practice; but when he deems the revolver

insufficient and points rapid-fire guns out of the windows, and stores hand grenades, shells, and nitro-glycerine from basement to attic for the same purpose, he need not be surprised if his insurance policy is canceled.

The question of preventing fire losses is also comparable with that of preventing war losses. In each case the danger is double—unprincipled conduct from without and carelessness or impulsiveness from within. Both must be guarded against. But the very means of guarding against the outside menace, namely, firearms and munition-makers, are in themselves an inside menace. It is easy in each case to exaggerate the external danger and underestimate the internal one, because man is ever more ready to admit his neighbor's scoundrelism than his own foolishness.

There is one point at which the analogy between fire and war prevention breaks down. The internal peril from fire increases noticeably with the increase of firearms in the house, but the internal peril of war increases by leaps and bounds, by geometric progression, with the increase of explosive elements in a nation. The man who keeps firearms in his house usually recognizes their danger and guards especially against it. Every time he buys a new gun he increases his precaution. But the enlargement of the number of professional soldiers and munitions corporations in a nation does not tend in the smallest degree to the exercise of additional care against using them. On the contrary, by their writings and conversation they form the spirit of war, which is really nothing less than the disguised desire for its glories and profits. The more there are of these classes, the more talk there is of a kind which tends doubly to bring closer the possibility of war and to increase still more the number of war-makers. The same democracy preparing against war cannot guard too carefully against turning itself into a Chauvinistic powder factory.

It is well worth while in the discussion of preparedness and ultra-preparedness to consider the case of fire insurance so far as it is applicable and to study the methods and regulations of fire underwriters by which they seek as far as possible to prevent fires. Such investigation cannot but lead to a better understanding of methods for preventing war.

## BRIEF PEACE NOTES

THE Committee on Friendly Relations among Foreign Students calls attention to its existence in an attractive illustrated folder prepared by its General Secretary, Charles Dubois Hurrey, 124 East 28th street, New York City. The work of this committee is to guide the five thousand foreign students in our schools and universities into an understanding of the best in this country's ideals and aims. By personal communication and through the printed page students of many countries are reached, among them Russia, Japan, China, India, Armenia, and the South American Republics.

... The Commission of the Associations of Moral Progress appears among the many other organizations named so optimistically in these desperate times, bringing itself to public attention in the form of its *Bulletin*, edited by Francois Ruedi, at 3 Jumelles, Lausanne, Switzerland. *The Bulletin* is of considerable interest,

containing articles by Henri Roche, Dr. Forel, and M. Hodler, of Geneva. Its reappearance is promised "two or three times every four months."

... The influential *Japan Times*, commenting upon the editorial "More 'Profitable Patriotism'" in the July *ADVOCATE OF PEACE*, declares that "the United States now has tremendous army and navy programs to carry out. The question naturally arises, with a vast amount of money rolling into the hands of makers of armament, will there not arise in America a second Krupp company, with all the sinister power and schemings of the original in Germany? Viewed in this light, the world cannot but watch with concern the enriching of warlike interests in America."

... Reports from Mexico City assert that the Constitutionalist government anticipates early completion of its plans to return to its owners the Mexican Railway

between Mexico City and Vera Cruz, and regards the revolution as practically over. Mints are busy turning out coins, and a decree has been issued empowering military and civil commanders to make and enforce laws, to reopen the courts, and otherwise to place the country on a peace basis.

. . . The second anniversary of the European war, August 1, 1916, was observed throughout Scandinavia with many peace meetings and special church services. Two hundred such meetings were held in Denmark and nearly three hundred in Sweden. Church bells rang all over both countries calling on the people to offer prayer for war's termination.

. . . As an outgrowth of the meeting of Mexican and American unofficial conferees in Washington in July to effect an understanding between the two American republics, an Inter-American Peace Committee has been founded, which is to have dual headquarters, one in an old convent in Mexico City, the other in the Munsey Building, Washington, D. C. The first task of this committee will be, it is said, "to make the Mexican revolution vivid to the people of the United States," so that a more perfect understanding of and sympathy with that troubled people may result in mutually helpful measures on both sides of the border.

. . . Count Michael Karolyi is the leader in a new party in Hungary whose object is to effect an immediate peace between Hungary and its enemies regardless of the consent of Germany or Austria. Count Karolyi came to this country in 1914 to arouse sentiment and funds for Hungarian independence.

. . . The French Socialist party have founded a new weekly organ entitled *Le Populaire*, and issued a manifesto. This latter document asserts the duty of all citizens to take up arms in the defense of an invaded nation, but declares that French Socialism will "betray itself if it supports the government from the moment that war ceases to possess a defensive character," . . . and "if Germany renounces all intention of annexing the soil of France, the war ceases to be a defensive one." It maintains that the Socialists should demand of the French government a clear statement of its present aims.

. . . Following the President's proclamation of two days to be set aside as relief days for Armenia and Syria, the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America has issued the following appeal:

*"To the Churches of Christ in America:*

"In response to the proclamation of the President of the United States, appointing Saturday and Sunday, October 21 and 22, as days for the relief of the suffering Armenian and Syrian peoples, the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America earnestly urges upon all of the churches of the thirty constituent bodies of the Federal Council, and upon all Christian people, that Sunday, October 22, be set apart for earnest intercession in behalf of our brethren of these races.

"The Federal Council will send to all the pastors of its constituency full informational material for use in presenting this great cause to the people, and recommends that contributions at all the services on this day be secured for distribution through the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief."

. . . Announcement has been made by the National Academy of Sciences of the establishment of a National

Research Council, an organization of the scientific authorities of educational and research institutions of the country in the interests of national defense, an idea which the Academy recently submitted to President Wilson and which received his immediate approval.

"The purpose of the Council," says the announcement, "is to bring into co-operation existing governmental educational, industrial, and other research organizations with the object of encouraging the investigation of natural phenomena, the increased use of scientific research in the development of American industries, the employment of scientific methods in strengthening the national defense, and such other applications of science as will promote the national security and welfare."

. . . On July 27, Dr. Membrano, Honduran Minister, and Acting Secretary of State Polk signed the Bryan-Wilson peace treaty between Honduras and the United States providing for a year's discussion of any differences between the two countries before hostilities may be begun. This treaty is the thirty-first of its kind to be ratified between the United States and other world powers.

. . . An international conference of delegates of the Socialist parties of nine neutral countries was convened at The Hague on July 31. The business of the conference includes, first, a manifesto to the Socialist parties of the belligerent countries with respect to the establishment of a durable peace; second, a Dutch proposal relating to the participation of neutrals in the conclusion of peace; third, a Dutch report on the economic war; fourth, an American proposal concerning the convocation of a plenary assembly of the International Socialist Bureau.

. . . At the twenty-second annual conference of the Friends' churches of California, held at Whittier, California, in July, a peace resolution introduced by Robert C. Root, Pacific Coast Director of the American Peace Society, was unanimously adopted, protesting against universal military training, but pledging unlimited loyalty to the country aside from military service.

. . . The International Army for the Promotion of World Peace, recently formed in this country, is an organization engaged in giving expression to the widespread recoil of men and women from the dominant militancy that, it declares, "has taken possession of the American press and seeks to dominate the legislative and executive powers of the United States." One of the methods of this army is to "pair off" the amicable citizens of one country against another. The circular issued from the New York office asserts that "if we cannot stop the war we can at least dissolve the standing armies of the future. . . . We want America to say, in effect, and make plain to other nations the following: 'There are in America millions of people who have kindred in your countries. There are hundreds of thousands of Americans who have friends in your countries. From an extensive canvass already made we are confident that all these are willing and would, were it necessary, mutually, man for man and woman for woman, pair for peace with their kindred and friends oversea. Furthermore, our ruler, we are sure, will pair with your rulers, our legislators with your legislators, our leaders of opinion with your leaders of opinion, our masses with your

masses. We believe the acceptance of this as a principle will aid incalculably the rational solution of international difficulties and establish enduring peace and friendship among us. We invite your co-operation.'"

... A declaration of the German Socialist party, recently permitted publication in *Vorwärts*, is in the form of a manifesto, maintaining that Germany has no plan of conquest, expressing the opinion that the moment has arrived when the German people should give their free and unrestricted opinion concerning national aims and the purposes of warfare if continued further, and urging, in conclusion, the preparation of a petition demanding a peace that will guarantee friendship with other nations and protect German integrity, independence, and freedom for economic development.

... With the obvious end of establishing friendlier relations between Russia and England, a donation of nearly \$50,000 has recently been given for the creation of a chair of Russian language in the University of Birmingham.

... The posters of the American Union against militarism, representing in condensed form the celebrated "War against War" exhibit displayed in New York City

last May, and subsequently sent on tour throughout the country, have been used effectively in many "peace booths" at State fairs during the summer, and on other occasions of the display of peace propaganda. It is reported that on the island of Nantucket this exhibit was displayed on the front of the Methodist Church during the week of August 7.

... "The New Crusader" is the ambitious title of a four-page journal recently appearing under the auspices of the Committee for the Promotion of Pacifism of Nelson. Nelson is a town of some 30,000 inhabitants in northern Lancashire, England. Its newly formed committee introduces itself as "a body of young men and women connected with the churches and Sunday schools of this town, who hold what is known as the pacifist view of war." Three reasons for being of *The New Crusader* are given as, first, preparation for the disappointments and disillusionments of the after-war period; second, helping to assert tolerance and a kindly attitude toward England's enemies after the war; and, third, to bring the war party and the non-resisters into relations of greater sympathy and understanding. Contributions are solicited.

## AMONG THE PEACE ORGANIZATIONS

### NEW ENGLAND DEPARTMENT, AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY.

DR. TRYON, the Director of the New England Department, spent the month of July at Berthier (*en haut*), Quebec, where he attended the French summer school which is conducted by Miss L. Amaron, of Washington, D. C.

During his visit there he made two addresses at the Sunday evening meetings of the Good Will Club, a society of working girls of Montreal who have a vacation house there. He spoke twice in the Episcopal Church, where he addressed audiences made up of local parishioners, members of the summer school and the club. The subjects of these addresses were "A Federated World" and "The Friendship of the English-speaking peoples," both of which met with hearty response from the people, who were found to hold views in accord with the constructive policies of the peace movement.

On August 27 he spoke at the Methodist Church, Danvers, and on September 16 he began a lecture and organization tour in Vermont and New Hampshire. He was scheduled to speak at Brattleboro, Proctor, Concord, and Boscawen.

### CHICAGO PEACE SOCIETY.

The Chicago Peace Society, in connection with the Woman's Peace Party and the American Union against Militarism, held a public meeting in Garfield Park, Chicago, Sunday, August 6, inst., with a symphony concert and several speakers. Unfortunately this meeting fell in the period of the terrific hot spell and the attendance was not as large as anticipated. The expense of the meeting was, however, not great and the societies felt justified in the money expended. The Chicago Peace Society has expended most of its energy this past month on working up the details of its membership and finan-

cial campaigns which it expects to launch actively early in the fall. Secretary Townsend has been in correspondence with Doctors Frederick Lynch and Sidney L. Gulick relative to carrying out a peace program in connection with the churches in Chicago this fall and winter, which the Chicago Peace Society will carry forward.

### NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PEACE SOCIETIES.

The secretary, Mr. Robert C. Root, has had the opportunity of co-operating to a large extent with Dr. E. Guy Talbott, of the California State Church Federation, in special efforts against the Chamberlain bill. Many hundred copies of "Waste of War" and "Twelve Objections to Military Training," prepared by the secretary, have been distributed. He has also been of considerable assistance to the Bureau of Public Discussion of the University Extension Division of the University of California, assisting in the preparation of a table of references on international questions. Anti-military measures in San Francisco have been materially hindered by the unfavorable impression created by the bomb explosion at the time of the preparedness parade in that city.

### MINNESOTA PEACE SOCIETY.

At a meeting of the Society, July 10, a resolution was presented by Dr. Edward J. Brown, of Minneapolis, declaring that "we are of the opinion that industrial justice at home and international freedom of communication and exchanges are important means for securing universal peace." After lengthy discussion, the resolution was adopted by the Society.

### MASSACHUSETTS PEACE SOCIETY.

Secretary Haskins, of the Massachusetts Peace Society, has addressed meetings during the summer at